



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 28, 1998

S. 1807

Hart Mountain Transfer Act of 1998

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources on May 13, 1998*

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1807 would have no impact on the federal budget. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1807 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1807 would provide for an exchange between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of land adjacent to or within the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in Oregon. Specifically, the bill would transfer administrative jurisdiction of about 12,100 acres of BLM land to the FWS in exchange for about 7,700 acres of refuge property. Property transferred to the refuge would no longer be available for disposal or commercial use under public land laws. Land transferred to the BLM would be released from such restrictions. Finally, the bill would modify the boundaries of the Hart Mountain refuge to reflect the transfers.

Based on information provided by the BLM, CBO expects that the agency would use the acreage obtained from the FWS to satisfy requirements under existing grazing permits. Currently, this grazing takes place primarily on the acreage that the BLM would transfer to the FWS, but the irregular boundaries of the Hart Mountain refuge make it difficult to determine which agency's land is used for grazing at any given time. The exchange of property would make it easier to enforce the existing permits. The bill would not affect the number or identity of permittees, the amount of grazing that occurs on federal lands, or the amount of offsetting receipts collected from grazing fees. We further estimate that neither agency would incur any additional operating costs as a result of this legislation.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.